## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 03551 250624Z ACTION EUR-12

R 250620Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7435 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION USBERLIN USMISSION USNATO

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USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, EEWT, FR, UK, GE

SUBJECT: FRENCH/GDR RELATIONS: MITTAG/BEIL VISIT TO

FRANCE

REF: PARIS 13920 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US THAT MITTAG VISIT TO FRANCE IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5. THIS SCENARIO PRESUPPOSES THAT THE FRENCH (CITROEN) GET THE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF A PLANT TO PRODUCE FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE DRIVESHAFTS. BRITISH COMPETITOR FOR THE CONTRACT (GUEST, KEEN, AND NETTLEFOLDS (GKN) DOES NOT YET COUNT ITSELF OUT; AND THE FRENCH, CITING ELEVENTH-HOUR AWARD OF PETROCHEMICAL PLANT CONTRACT TO JAPANESE IN NOVEMBER 1977, SAY THAT WHILE VISIT IS NOW BEING PLANNED, IT IS NOT A CERTAINTY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. ON SUBJECT OF DRIVESHAFT PLANT, BRITISH EMBASSY IS TELLING US GKN WOULD AGREE TO ANY LEVEL OF PRODUCT BUYBACK THE GDR WANTS, BELIEVING THAT THE EAST GERMANS WILL NEITHER WANT NOR BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE QUANTITIES SPECIFIED. BRITISH SAID ALSO THAT CHRYSLER CORPORATION WOULD BE ULTIMATE RECIPIENT OF BUYBACK DRIVESHAFTS,

WHETHER GKN OR CITROEN GETS THE CONTRACT. BOLEN

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